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Advocate of Peace

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DEMOCRATS, REPUBLICANS, AND PEACE

THE most significant utterance to be found in either of the political platforms is the following Republican confession of faith. It is the last sentence of the paragraph entitled "Protection of American Rights." It reads:

"We believe in the pacific settlement of international disputes and favor the establishment of a world court for that purpose."

The utterance of the Democratic party upon the problem of the pacifists is not so definite. It is true that they say:

"The people of the United States love peace. They respect the rights and covet the friendship of all other nations. They desire neither any additional territory nor any advantage which cannot be peacefully gained by their skill, their industry or their enterprise. . . . We hold that it is the duty of the United States . . . to assist the world in securing settled peace and justice . . . and we believe that the time has come when it is the duty of the United States to join with

the other nations of the world in any feasible association that will effectively serve these principles, to maintain inviolate the complete security of the highway of the seas for the common and unhindered use of all nations."

As between these two interpretations of the best way out of the present world difficulty, we professional pacifists will especially welcome the Republican statement. The writer of that statement has wittingly or unwittingly embodied one-half of the program of the American Peace Society for nearly a century. So far as we know, this is the first time in the history of political parties that this program has been so definitely stated in a great national political platform. This is, indeed, heartening. The politicians and statesmen are learning at last what the pacifists are after. It will not be long before they will sense the other half of our program, namely, the extension of our international law-making machinery into a more effective agency. The peace-makers may well be encouraged.

MORE "PROFITABLE PATRIOTISM"

CONGRESSMAN QUIN, of Mississippi, speaking before the Congress Wednesday, May 31, referred to the record of the Armor-Plate Trust, calling particular attention to the time when "they bored holes in the armor and put defective material in the battleships." He called attention also to the fact that those opposing the Government manufacture of armor plate were, for the most part, directly or indirectly interested in great steel corporations and the trusts engaged in the manufacture of armor plate. The proof shows, he said, that they charged three prices to the American Government, and that is exploitation and plunder. He added:

"The rifles that the Government manufactures cost \$16, and those that they have been buying from private factories cost \$27—identically the same gun. This machine gun which you have read about, that weighs 32 pounds, cost \$1,200, purchased from private factories. As to the little tripod and the pack that goes on the mule's back, great statesmen on that committee inquiring about it discovered that a tripod that Sears & Roebuck, of the gentlemen's own town, would supply for about 30 cents, is supplied by this gun manufacturer at \$300, and that the little pack that goes on the mule's

back costs the Government \$500 at the hands of a private factory. Any man who ever used a shotgun, and who is a judge of arms, knows that the machine gun, weighing 32 pounds, and a little tripod or pair of tongs to hold it up, is worth about \$75, but, manufactured by these people and sold to Uncle Sam, it costs the taxpayers of this Republic \$1,200! Mr. Chairman, the failure to pass this provision in the bill would be a reflection on the integrity of this House. We must take the profit out of war guns, ammunition, and armor plate."

Senator Robert M. La Follette's editorial, in which he charges that the Government arsenal at Philadelphia is today making a 3.8-inch common shrapnel at a cost of only \$7.94, while at the same time it is paying private firms for the identical shrapnel exactly \$17.50, has, so far as we know, never been answered. More of the Senator's editorial deserves re quotation. We read:

"The Government makes a 31-second combination fuse for \$2.92. For this same fuse it pays the private maker just \$7.00. The Government makes a 3-inch finished shrapnel case at a cost of only \$1.75. It pays the private manufacturing concern \$3.06 for the same article. The Government makes a gun carriage for a 3-